



MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY MERCANTILE NEWS



The Museum Store, Helena, Montana

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Volume I, Issue I

Just Off The Freight Train



Yellowstone Bees, Inc.—Natural Body Care Products
now available. Locally made in Bozeman, Montana.

It can be said that the old ways are best, the most important traditions to preserve...but when it comes to retail sometimes "what's new" can be just as exciting, and worthy of checking out.

If you haven't wandered into the Museum Store in a while—I invite you to stop in and browse. We have introduced many new products and books into the store that are sure to please everyone and are great for holiday giving!

A few of our new products:

- Sterling Silver and local stone work from Helena artist, Mary Ellen McDonald—her work can be seen in Jim Stewart's gallery and on several of your fellow colleagues throughout the building. (See Jeannie Dunn for tips on matching Mary Ellen's jewelry with everyday apparel.)
- Vintage Postcard Books for Montana, Helena, Butte, Missoula, Bozeman, and Yellowstone National Park
- Yellowstone Bees line of Natural Body Care Products (made in Bozeman, MT). Products include Hand & Body Cream, Lip Balms, Bath Oils and Bath Crystals in a variety of subtle and soothing scents.

A short list of some of our new books:

- *A Great Day To Fight Fire: Mann Gulch, 1949* by Mark Matthews
- *The Irish General: Thomas Francis Meagher* by Paul R. Wylie

- *Eight Women, Two Model Ts, and the American West* by Joanne Wilke
- *A Grammar of Crow* by Randolph Graczyk
- *Fifty Cents an Hour: The Builders and Boomtowns of the Fort Peck Dam* by Lois Lonnquist
- *Hanging Around the Big Sky: The Unofficial Guide to Lynching, Strangling and Legal Hangings of Montana—Book One: Legal Hangings* by Tom Donovan
- *Butte Trivia* by George Everett
- *Downhill in Montana: Early Day Skiing in the Treasure State and Yellowstone National Park—A Pictorial History* by Stan Cohen
- *Gall: Lakota War Chief* by Robert W. Larson
- *First Dog: Unleashed in the Montana Capitol* by Jessica Solberg; Illustrated by Robert Rath
- *Adventures in the West: Stories for Young Readers* by Susanne George Bloomfield and Eric Melvin Reed
- *Chip The Buffalo* by Cheri Lawson
- *Sitting Bull: A Stone in My Heart—(DVD)* by Lillimar Pictures
- Much much more...

And remember, along with a pleasant greeting and a smile you also receive a sizeable 15% employee discount on any merchandise in the store. Please come by and see all the new and changing "goodies" that line the shelves of your very own Museum Store.

Info Request

Give us your best and worst—that's right we want all the gory details. To stay competitive, fun, and unique in our products, displays, local artistry, and merchandise I am asking for everyone's input on other museum/historical society stores and products.

Email me with the specifics on places you think I must see or need to avoid. As well as local artists, new and interesting products, great buys, etc. I look forward to receiving your comments:
sjonckheere@mt.gov.

Coming Soon To A Shelf Near You

BOOKS:

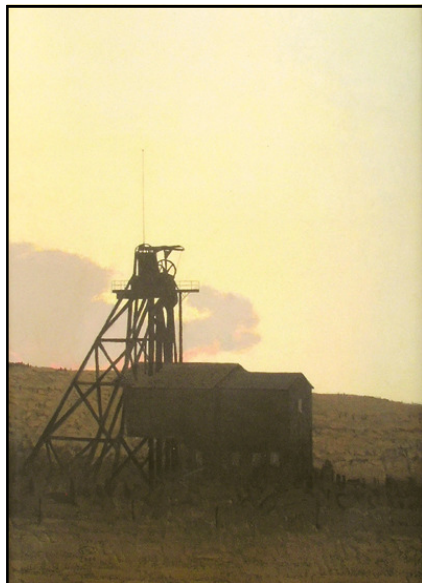
- *Charles M. Russell: A Catalogue Raisonne* edited by Byron Price
- *Evelyn Cameron: Montana's Frontier Photographer* by Kristi Hager
- *Montana Place Names: From Alzada to Zortman* (MHS Press)
- *MT Mainstreet Volume 7, A Guide to Historic Bozeman* by Jim Jenks (MHS Press)
- *The Billy The Kid Reader* by Frederick Nolan
- *Philip R. Goodwin: America's Sporting & Wildlife Artist* by Larry Len Peterson

GENERAL MERC:

- Chuck and James Soft & Chewy Granola (made in Sidney, MT)
- New handmade dolls by Blackfeet artist, Jackie Larson Bread
- MHS Sweatshirts in a variety of fabulous, lush colors
- Cards from Navajo/Lakota artist, Frank Shortey



The Defendorf Report



Cover art of *Mile High Mile Deep* by Richard O'Malley. Available for purchase in the Museum Store.

As an avid book reader, and new but well-seasoned member of the Montana Historical Society I was given the assignment of reading and reviewing a book from our fine Museum Store.

For this first installment of "The Defendorf Report", I chose to highlight a wonderful book by Richard O'Malley, *Mile High Mile Deep*. The rich dialog of this manuscript was written during the 1960's while Mr. O'Malley was living in Paris as an expatriot. Originally published by Mountain Press of Missoula in 1971, the stories two main characters, Dick O'Malley and Frank Lardner, ride the river of Butte, Montana during the Summer of the mid 1920's as young teens and the Winter of the later 1920's – early 1930's as young men in true Huck Finn fashion. Nonstop adventure abounds framed within the colorful culture of Butte – the Mining City.

Livingston, Montana artist and publisher Russell Chatham stumbled upon a "Mile High Mile Deep" paperback in the Summer of 2002 and was stunned by the read. With permission of Mrs. Richard K. O'Malley, Chatham's Clark City Press transcribed and reprinted a new hardcover of the work in 2004. As an added bonus, the dust jacket cover depicts an image of a Butte gallows frame in soft Chatham pastel.

Thanks to Mr. Chatham and Clark City Press for republishing this rich and moving memoir. I humbly give this book my highest rating—5-Aprons*.



(Coincidentally, September 27 kicked off the 2007 – 2008 Pages in History season. Nearly 30 folks were in attendance and MHS Director Richard Sims led the discussion of Richard O'Malley's, *Mile High Mile Deep*).

*The 5-Apron Rating system is based on a 1-apron to 5-apron range. (i.e., Gordon gives a 1-apron to those books he least recommends, a 2 to 4-apron for mediocre, average or middle-of-the-road recommendations, and a 5-apron rating for his highest recommended reads.)

Sample Corner

Periodically, we at the Museum Store receive samples of books, products, food, beverages, etc. A "Sample Corner" has been setup in the Museum Store office where these fine samples are available to try and/or read and review.

Currently, we have a nice selection of samples, including:

- Herbal teas from the Native American Herbal Tea company
- Hand and body cream from Yellowstone Bees, Inc
- The Authorized Biography of Crazy Horse and His Family on 2-DVD's (part one and part two)
- Music and CD's
- Review copies of many new books such as:
 - *Lana's Lakota Moons* by Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve



- *Who's My Enemy?* By Ivan Lynn Bowman
- *Lodestar* by Sarie Mackay
- *The Ghost of Schafer Meadows* by Beth Hodder
- *A Missouri River Odyssey—1939: Fort Benton to New Orleans* by Bob & Louise Lynd

I invite anyone who is interested to stop by and pilfer through the samples or check-out a book, DVD or CD. All I ask in return is for your opinion of the item, good or bad.

Our samples are your samples.

Your Name In Print

This is your chance to be highlighted in the newly-launched *Mercantile News*. If you have a penchant for expressing your opinion and sharing your thoughts we are asking for your input...in writing. Each quarter, one Society employee will have their product or book review published within the margins of this esteemed newsletter.

This is important information for our growing and changing Museum Store. As most of you know word-of-mouth is the best form of advertising and better yet—it's free. Your thoughts and opinions in the form of a product or book review are requested and will be highly prized.

Please submit your notes, comments and/or a complete article on a product you've purchased in the store and why you like it and would recommend it to others. Make sure to include your name so that we can give you the recognition you deserve, and we will be sure to include it in an upcoming edition of the *Mercantile News*.